

# K-5 Literacy Strategies at Home

Elementary Family Series:  
Successful Strategies for  
Distance Learning



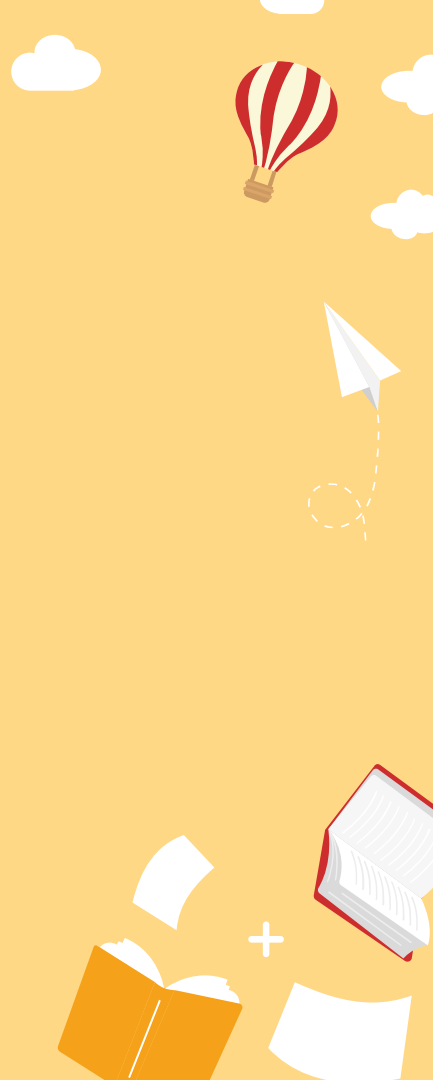
# Zoom Language Feature





# Agenda

- Reading Volume
- Reading Widely
- Reading Aloud
- The Value of Vocabulary Games



# INTRODUCTION

During distance learning, your child spends less time with the classroom teacher and classmates. They might also spend less time reading. In order to continue to help your child grow their vocabularies and grow as readers, we will recommend strategies and fun games.






## Teacher and Family Expectations

Teacher	Parent/Family
Rigorous	LOVE
Intensive	Bonding and connectedness
Standards-based instruction	Fun and games
Developmentally progressive	Supportive of the instruction
Productive struggle	Doesn't feel like school
Growth-producing relationship	Brings the family together in warm, positive ways

Source: Wiseman, Rosalind, et al. *The Distance Learning Playbook for Parents: How to Support Your Child's Academic, Social, and Emotional Development in Any Setting*. Corwin, 2021, p. 16.



# Reading Volume

The number of minutes  
your child spends reading  
texts accounts for the total  
volume of reading your  
child does.





# Why is reading important?

- Reading builds general knowledge and reading proficiency
- When your child reads independently, they are exposed to a greater array of knowledge and a richer vocabulary
- When your child reads, they are exposed to **rare words**, which are words that occur in reading but not generally in common language. Rare words include many of the academic concepts taught in school
  - For example, the word “cells” may not occur often in common language, but it will appear frequently in a science class
- Students who read extra outside of school perform better on standardized tests. Everything counts: magazines, newspapers, sports journals, joke books, comic books, fiction
  - Standardized tests especially test for knowledge of rare words



## Discussion Question

Reading has been decreasing: In 2016, only 16% of students reported reading a book or magazine for pleasure. In 1976, 60% of students reported reading for pleasure.

**Why do you think this is?**





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## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN READING VOLUME AND ACHIEVEMENT

Percentile Rank <sup>a</sup>	Minutes of Reading per Day			Words Read per Year	
	Books	Text <sup>b</sup>	All Reading <sup>c</sup>	Books	Text <sup>b</sup>
98	65.0	67.3	90.7	4,358,000	4,733,000
90	21.1	33.4	40.4	1,823,000	2,357,000
80	14.2	24.6	31.1	1,146,000	1,697,000
70	9.6	16.9	21.7	622,000	1,168,000
60	6.5	13.1	18.1	432,000	722,000
50	4.6	9.2	12.9	282,000	601,000
40	3.2	6.2	8.6	200,000	421,000
30	1.8	4.3	5.8	106,000	251,000
20	0.7	2.4	3.1	21,000	134,000
10	0.1	1.0	1.6	8,000	51,000
2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0	8,000

<sup>a</sup>Percentile rank on each measure separately.

<sup>b</sup>Books, magazines, and newspapers.

<sup>c</sup>Books, magazines, newspapers, comic books, and mail.

Source: Anderson, R. C., Wilson, P. T., & Fielding, L. G. (1988). Growth in reading and how children spend their time outside of school. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 23(3), 285–303. Used with permission.

Source: Wiseman, Rosalind, et al. *The Distance Learning Playbook for Parents: How to Support Your Child's Academic, Social, and Emotional Development in Any Setting*. Corwin, 2021. P. 17.



# Why is reading important during distance learning?



## Teachers are focusing on live teaching

It may be challenging for teachers to assign reading because students aren't reading in front of them

**Discussion Question:** During distance learning, how has your child's experience of reading been? Are they reading a lot, a little, not at all?

## In a normal elementary classroom, students read everyday

Students are usually given time each day to read a book of their choice for pleasure

## A daily habit of reading a lot and reading widely will move your child forward

Encourage your child to read daily. Let them read anything they are interested in (with your approval). Reading should not be a chore!



# Action Steps



## **Talk with your teacher or librarian to identify reading materials**

The book shouldn't be too challenging or too easy. Let your child browse and select what to read



## **Ask your child what they are reading for fun**

Are they enjoying it? Would they recommend it to a friend? What is the book about? Do they like the main character?



## **Know your reading resources**

See the next slide for digital reading resources



## **Ask your child what they are reading for school**

What are they learning? What books are they reading? Is it difficult or easy?



## **Read with your children**

Reading together creates a shared experience and allows time for bonding



## **Model reading and talk about your reading in front of your child**

You can read anything (newspapers, magazines) but talk with your child about how you read everyday

# Digital Reading Resources



- **Oxford Owl:** <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>
- **Unite for Literacy:** <https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/>
  - Offers a large collection of books that are narrated in over 15 languages
- **Storyline Online:** <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
  - An award winning children's literacy program featuring famous actors reading books in illustrated videos
- **Mrs. P's Magic Story Library:** <http://mrsp.com/>
- **Buckham Memorial Library**
  - Browse-and-Go appointments
  - Libby, borrow and read e-books, audio books, and magazines
- **International Children's Digital Library:** <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>
  - International children's books offered in a variety of languages
- **NPR's Wow in the World:** <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510321/wow-in-the-world>
  - Podcast for kids and their grown-ups hosted by Mindy Thomas and Guy Raz about stories from technology, science, and innovation



# Reading Widely

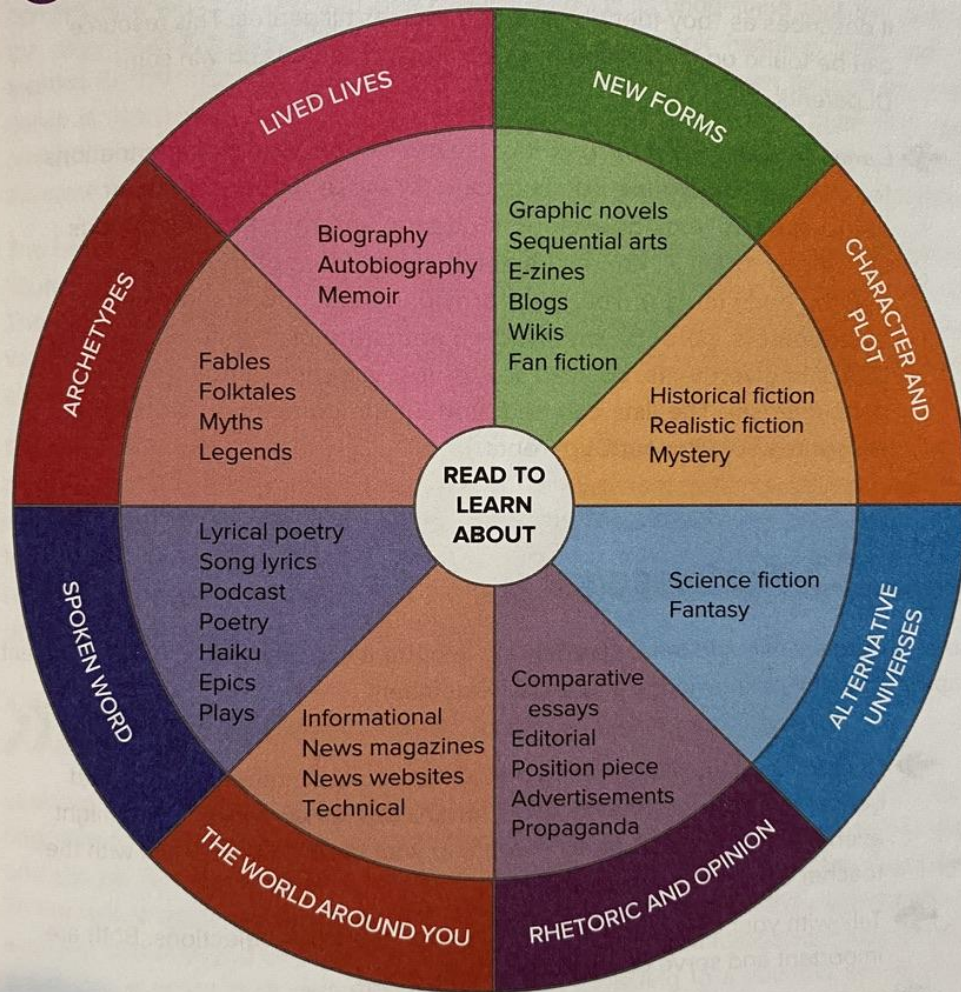
Reading different genres  
helps children build  
knowledge







# Genre Wheel



Source: Wiseman, Rosalind, et al.  
*The Distance Learning Playbook for Parents: How to Support Your Child's Academic, Social, and Emotional Development in Any Setting*. Corwin, 2021. P. 21.

Source: Fisher, D., & Frey, N. (2009). *Background knowledge: The missing piece of the comprehension puzzle*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.



# The Value of Reading Widely

## Builds knowledge about the physical, social, and biological world

### Narrative Texts

- Builds imagination
- Encourages social and emotional development
  - Experience challenges at a distance and see how characters fail and triumph
  - Imagine how they could handle a difficult situation without having to experience it
- Research shows that reading narratives can alleviate loneliness
- Reading for pleasure and enjoyment

### Information Texts

- Supplies children with knowledge about events and phenomena
  - Brings abstract concepts to the forefront, ex. Volcanos
- Helps to build children's interests, which can become aspirations and eventually careers
- Builds real-life reading skills as adults read a great deal of nonfiction and informational texts for personal and work lives
- The more background information a reader has, the stronger their comprehension skills are likely to be



## Discussion Question

**Do your children read widely across genres  
or do they stick to a series or genre?**





# The Value of Reading Aloud

Reading aloud can serve to  
build your child's knowledge  
and develop their social and  
emotional skills





# Benefits of Reading Aloud as a Family

- **Academic Benefits**

- Development of vocabulary
- Improved listening comprehension
- Achievement on reading tests
- Young children learn that the print on the page carries meaning and learn how stories evolve
- Exposure to texts a reader might not undertake on their own
- Reading requires practice, not just instruction. During distance learning, children may not be getting enough practice

- **Social and Emotional Benefits**

- Young children develop self-regulation skills like sitting quietly and exercising patience when someone else is talking
- Teens will also benefit from a shared experience with you
- Promotes bonding and close relationships essential in a family



# Read-aloud tips



Tips: Incorporate read-alouds with your children into your daily routine and make it a habit. After lunch or before bed time are popular times for read-alouds



Vary the texts you read aloud so you can introduce your child to different genres and ideas



## Share your personality

Sharing enthusiasm with children can help them get excited about texts. Use funny voices, sound effects, and gestures



## Ask Questions

Ask questions about the plot, characters, and even where words are on the page



## Preview the text

Preview the text beforehand so you know what's coming. Use sound effects, gestures, slow and fast paced reading accordingly



## Allow children to take turns reading

Children in grades K-3 can read to their siblings; this is especially effective for children who are still learning the alphabet and vocabulary

# The Value of Vocabulary Games

Memorizing word lists is  
not very useful; playing  
vocabulary games can be a  
helpful alternative.



# The Five Steps of Knowing Vocabulary



**1. I can define the word**



**2. I can use it correctly**



**3. I know multiple meanings of the word**



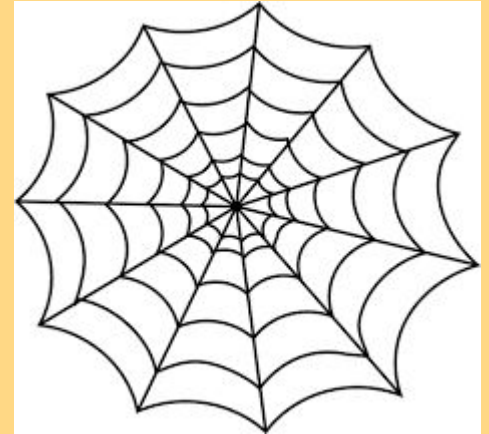
**4. I can use the word with accuracy and precision**



**5. I can use the word in conversation and in writing**

## The Importance of Vocabulary

- Vocabulary refers to the words of language and their associated meaning
- A person's vocabulary develops across their lifetime
- A child's vocabulary is a solid predictor of their reading comprehension and achievement
- Vocabulary represents a web of knowledge that the learner possesses. The more extensive the web is, the more likely new ideas will stick
- For this reason, it's important that children continue to read and expand their vocabularies during distance learning





# Recommended Vocabulary Games and Activities

-**Play board games that rely on word knowledge:** Scrabble, Scrabble Junior, Balderdash, Upwords, Dabble, and Pictionary are a great way to incorporate vocabulary.

-**Anagrams:** Use letter tiles to form a long word, then let your child(ren) form additional words using the same letter tiles.

-**Guess the Covered Word:** Write a word your child is learning on a piece of paper. Use another piece of paper to cover the word. Give your child the category the word falls under and reveal the word one letter at a time, and see how long it takes for your child to figure it out.

-**20 Questions:** Declare a category of animal, vegetable, or mineral OR person, place or thing and allow your children to ask up to 20 yes/no questions. The game requires deductive reasoning as players need to ask the right questions to get to the right answer.

-**Tips:** Know the vocabulary words your child is learning in school. Contact the teacher if needed. Incorporate these words into your games.

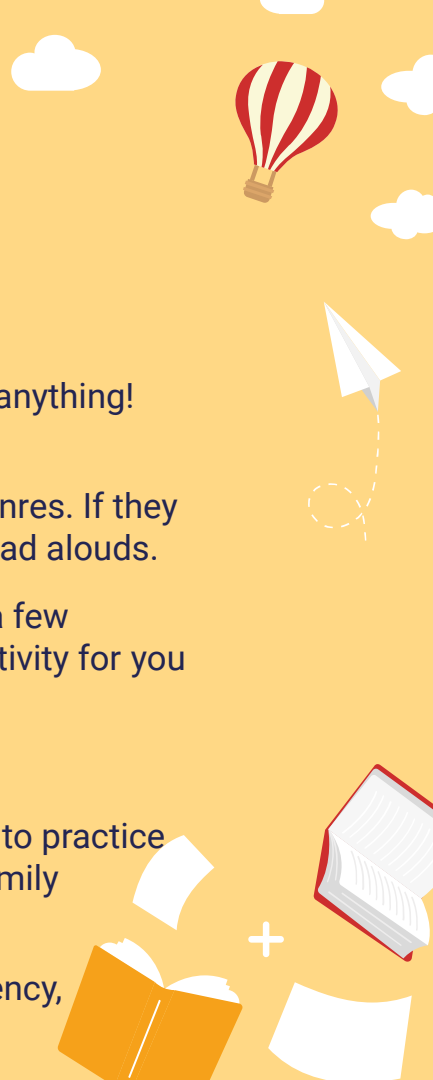
-Be sure to take turns with your child so they can be the ones with the word.





## Key Takeaways

- Reading requires practice, not just instruction.
- Encourage your child to read everyday. It can be anything! Books, magazines, newspapers, joke books, etc.
- Encourage your child to read a wide variety of genres. If they are reluctant, include additional genres in your read alouds.
- Plan read alouds in your daily routine. Even just a few minutes a day counts and it's a great bonding activity for you and your family.
- Utilize digital literacy resources.
- Vocabulary games are a great way for your child to practice and expand their vocabulary and to bring your family together.
- Reread books. This is a great way to develop fluency, especially for younger children.







# Sources

Duke, Nell K, and V. Susan Bennett-Armistead. "6 Reasons to Use Informational Text in Primary Grades." *Scholastic*, Scholastic, [www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/6-reasons-use-informational-text-primary-grades/](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/6-reasons-use-informational-text-primary-grades/).

Wiseman, Rosalind, et al. *The Distance Learning Playbook for Parents: How to Support Your Child's Academic, Social, and Emotional Development in Any Setting*. Corwin, 2021. P. 21.



# Thank you for attending!

Upcoming Sessions: Tuesday, January 26, 6-7pm:  
"Social and Emotional Wellbeing at Home" led by  
school social workers Michelle Kuane and Kim Barry

If you were one of the first 30 registrants, be on the  
lookout for an email from us regarding your prize bag.



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